

CITY GIRDS FOR ALL-OUT WAR

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 16 PAGES UNION PRINTERS EMPLOYED EXCLUSIVELY
27th YEAR—NO. 50. SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1941 PER COPY 5c

Nation at War With Germany, Italy

Congress Rushes War Resolution

Following President Roosevelt's message confirming reports that Germany and Italy had declared war against the United States, Congress quickly adopted a joint war resolution which accepted what the President said was "the greatest challenge to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Senate vote was unanimous 88 to 0, while the House approved. President Roosevelt acknowledged Italy's belligerent status only in the next to the last sentence of his message when he said: "Italy also declared war against the United States." He announced the hostilities with: "The long known and long expected has taken place."

Everyone Has War-Time Duty

The Herald's is Illustrated By This Edition AN EDITORIAL

War-time duties of all citizens were thrust upon everyone in this nation with lightning rapidity during the past four days. Even those unable to serve the various civilian agencies have been given definite assignments, the most important of which is level-headed calmness. All of us are in the second line of defense—our armed forces forming the first.

War-time duties have been levied on the press of the nation. To newspapers has been given the responsibility of dissemination of proper information with the privilege, as always in America, of editorial comment and opinion. Radio facilities have likewise been charged with war-time responsibility.

This responsibility has been abused. The uneasiness on the part of some citizens may be attributed to "scare-head" stories and hysterical-voiced announcers who alternate solemn pleas for serenity with staccato-phrased "news reports."

The Herald does not propose to evade its share of war-time duties. Rather it has imposed upon itself additional accuracy in its major service to readers for the duration: That of checking and double-checking all reports with qualified local, county, state and national authorities when such news pertains to war measures for public safety in this community.

This edition is a sample of that type of accurate reporting. Every news-story pertaining to war regulations, instructions and other data of vital interest to every man, woman and child in Torrance and vicinity, is based on fact and truth. Note that each informative article contains the source for its data. Each official named has actually been contacted personally for the information. There are no "usually reliable sources" or "high authorities" used in this issue to qualify information.

In providing general coverage of the entire city with this edition, sending it to every home, The Herald is this week performing a service which is the great privilege of the American press—offering information, clear, unbiased and complete, to all who are interested.

As a weekly community newspaper, The Herald cannot compete with the multi-editions of the metropolitan press in coverage of actual war news. But it can—and it will—offer factual information about war conditions in its special province, Torrance and vicinity. That is this newspaper's war-time as well as peace-time duty and it will not fail.

Blackout Tour Reveals Few Give Aways Here

By MICHAEL STRASZER

If you don't know the streets of Torrance as intimately as the back of your hand, don't do any joy-riding during a blackout.

When even Police Chief John Stroh confesses to the city council that he got lost trying to find his own home early Tuesday evening, consider what chance you have of finding your way about and then STAY HOME and listen to the radio!

I rode the blackout Tuesday night with Officers Curt Tolson and Everett Travelli. Assigned by the new police radio KRMF to general patrol, our squad car No. 1 covered nearly every part of the city until we were advised by Capt. Frank Schumacher who has an unusually fine "radio voice" to gas up before the station closed.

L. A. Is Give-Away

By that time we had arrived at several conclusions. First, in regard to the blackout itself, it was unusually complete. We observed that in first cruising the business district, then the residential areas and finally from atop the highest point in Hollywood Riviera.

From that observation point only a few pin-points of light could be seen, scattered far apart. But there were dead give-aways. The city of Los Angeles sent its glare high into the heavens—no blackout there. Inglewood was clearly defined by a thin but very noticeable streak of light. And the furnaces at Columbia Steel gave off a red glow that intermittently increased to searchlight intensity as the hearts were poured. Many homes were total blackouts as their occupants evidently lived up to the very letter of blackout requirements and hung blankets over their windows. Homes equipped with venetian blinds were noticeable—those

(Continued on Page 8-A)

Sidelights on How We "Took It"

Highlights on how war came to Torrance this week are contained in the articles published below. To these must be added this official—from Police Chief John Stroh—information on blackouts: Army Fourth Area Interceptor commands have designated KFI the official station for all information, otherwise—watch your street lights or intersection lights. If they go off, it is a blackout. When they go on again, the blackout is lifted. Air raid alarm signals are: one three-minute siren blast; all-clear is a one-minute siren blast. And above all, keep your head.

Fire Chief Gives Instructions

Pointing out that "it behooves all of us at this time to be calm and prepare ourselves for whatever may come," Fire Chief J. E. McMaster issued the following statement to citizens of Torrance Tuesday:

"We must all stand by our President, our fighting forces and law enforcement officers. I seriously recommend (1) that all combustible material that is of no value be disposed of at once; (2) clean up garages, cellars and attics and keep them clean—take all rubbish to the city dump or place it in containers in the alley where city trucks will pick it up; (3) Keep your garden hose connected to outside spigots with the nozzle attached at all times; have ladders and shovels handy; (4) Incinerator fires must be out by sundown—no outside fires will be permitted after dark; (5) report all fires immediately and be sure about it—give the correct location distinctly and carefully."

ONE FLAG UP . . . Only one local business man tolled the flag Monday in front of his shop following the declaration of war. In defense of the others, it may be reported they were busy carrying out the government's expressed hope that "business as usual" would be the watchword in all communities.

Where To Enlist

Here are the locations of the various armed forces recruiting stations:

U. S. ARMY, 1755 U. S. Post office and Court House, Main and Temple, L. A.; Room 325 San Fernando Bldg., 406 South Main St., or Room 2, Post Office Bldg., American ave., Long Beach.

U. S. NAVY, Federal Building, Main and Temple, L. A., or Post Office Bldg., American Ave., Long Beach.

U. S. MARINE CORPS, Room G-35 U. S. Postoffice and Court House, Main and Temple, L. A.

U. S. COAST GUARD, Rooms 727-728 San Fernando Bldg., 406 South Main St., L. A.

U. S. NAVAL RESERVE, Naval Reserve Armory, 860 Lila Terrace, Chavez Ravine, L. A.

NO BROADCAST . . . Principal Bernhard J. Strand at Torrance Elementary school decided not to call an assembly of pupils to hear the President's war message Monday. He said he learned that the youngsters had been "fed up to the point of nervous excitement" by the broadcasts they had been hearing at home.

Schools on Seven Day Week Basis

Instructions were received by principals of all schools here today that school employees are now on a 24-hour, seven-day week availability schedule. Telephone service will be maintained during all hours.

There will be no field trips for students and all evening and after-school meetings will be reduced to a minimum. Parents are asked to have children maintain punctuality and to go to and from school by the shortest routes.

COACH CALLED . . . Coach Pete Zamperini was notified early this week to report yesterday at the Naval Reserve headquarters but he will not enter active service until Jan. 1. The basketball and track mentor will continue his high school work until the start of the Christmas holidays.

Winning His Wings



William E. Keefer, 22, of Torrance is within 10 weeks of winning his wings and commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps Reserve.

He winds up a ten-week period of basic training at Moffett Field next Saturday, qualifying for advanced training as an aviation cadet at Phoenix, Arizona. Keefer began his basic training at Moffett Field Sept. 30 after satisfactorily completing his elementary flight instruction at the Ryan School of Aeronautics, San Diego, Calif.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Keefer, 2259 Torrance Blvd., he is a graduate of Torrance high school and attended Compton junior college. Prior to enlisting as an aviation cadet, he had 85 hours of Civilian Pilot Training. Following the advanced training course, he will be assigned to an Air Corps tactical unit or to an Army flying school as an instructor.

FOE WOMEN . . . The women's ambulance and defense corps of America is organizing a company at the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce that is open to all women volunteers in the south bay district and acceptance of volunteer workers between the ages of 18 and 45 will be made daily.

Cavalry Unit Wants Recruits

An urgent request to all qualified horsemen in this area to volunteer at once in Company H, cavalry unit of the California State Guard, was issued this week by Corporals Sid Wood of Torrance and William F. Hines of Redondo Beach. Thirty more recruits are needed to compose a full troop of 90 men and Company H wants to be the first cavalry unit organized in the State Guard. Enlistments are being taken by Mrs. L. B. Kelsey, Chamber of Commerce secretary at the city hall.

Recruits do not have to own their horses but must be interested in cavalry work. Complete information may be obtained from Corporal Hines by phoning Redondo 3669 or by calling in person at the troop's headquarters at El Rancho Martos Stables, 5781 Centinela ave., between Jefferson and Sepulveda blvds., next Wednesday night, Dec. 17, at 7:30 o'clock. The phone number is Orchard 7-2717.

BALLOON DOWN . . . What was first reported as a "barage balloon" and turned out to be a meteorological balloon came down in some trees south of 190th st., near Meyer Lane Monday. Before police could grab it, it soared again and sailed out to sea.

J. A. C. L. Pledges Volunteer Service

In condemning Japan for its attack on American soil, the Gardena Valley unit of the Japanese-American Citizens League pledged its unreserved services to the nation in the following statement issued this week:

"The Japanese American Citizens League unequivocally condemns Japan for its attack upon American soil, our country. We pledge our services unreservedly to the officials and authorities of our country, the United States of America."

"The 15,000 members in the 56 chapters of our national organization are eager to cooperate in every way to repel this unwarranted invasion of our country. More than 2,500 of our citizen members are already in the services of the American armed forces, and others are prepared to join.

"We are confident that our parents who are aliens because the laws of this country have denied them the privilege of naturalization will stand by us and will abide by the laws of their adopted land as good residents."

"The national headquarters of the League has been collaborating with the officials in the national defense program and is now reorganizing the members to volunteer their services to the civilian defense program in registering with the local police or fire station, and to cooperate in every way with the civil and federal authorities."

KITCHENS POPULAR . . . Most Torrance residents are living in one room—the kitchen—these blackout nights. It's easier to conform to regulations by having lights on in only one room—and the kitchen always was the most popular room in a home.

Casualty Rumors Unfounded

Rumors that "Torrance boys have been killed in the Pacific" flew thick and fast here during the past four days. Four young men here in the armed services were particularly mentioned as casualties.

In no case, The Herald definitely learned today from their families, has any such information been received. The victims of this typical rumor were Tony Nady, Wendell Leatherman, Addison Smith and Dick Clutter. Either members of their families or immediate neighbors were contacted by The Herald this morning and all said no such news had been received.

NO WRAPS . . . Don't wrap up or shade your lights with paper or cloth, Fire Chief J. E. McMaster urged residents today. The globes get hot, as everyone knows, and are a distinct fire hazard when thus confined.

Ordered to Air Training School

Ordered to report at Rankin Aeronautic Academy near Tulare, Dec. 17 to begin training with the December class, Carroll Joe Bender, 24-year-old son of Mrs. William Hatt of 21509 Berendo ave., will be the guest of honor at a farewell party to be held at the family home tomorrow night.

Bender attended Torrance high school, graduating with the Summer class of 1935. He then entered Compton Junior College, learning to fly under direction of the Civilian Aeronautics Authority. He followed this with additional special training at Manual Arts high school's night course for the Air Corps.

Giant Aluminum Project Rushed To Start Here

Spurred on by impact of actual war, excavations for the first unit of the giant \$50,000,000 aluminum plant in the Torrance area will be started within a few days—and possibly within a few hours—The Herald learned this morning.

Contracts totaling \$1,950,000 have been awarded, which include \$600,000 to the P. J. Walker Company of Los Angeles for installing foundations for the \$18,000,000 alumina reduction plant, and \$1,350,000 for 9,000 tons of structural steel for the same plant, awarded to Bethlehem Steel Company.

Other units to be built on the 253-acre tract located between Western and Normandie aves., between 190th and 203rd sts., include: a \$7,000,000 extrusion plant and a \$6,000,000 forge plant.

Location of the \$22,000,000 aluminum sheet mill has not been definitely decided, as yet, by officials of Defense Plant Corporation, an R. F. C. subsidiary, which government agency will build and own all plants in the \$50,000,000 program, The Herald learned this morning.

The sheet mill as now set up will be the largest of four plants to be built. It was originally planned to erect a \$12,000,000 sheet mill in Southern California and a duplicate mill near Portland, Oregon. However, government officials have decided to combine these two sheet mills into one unit, costing approximately \$22,000,000.

High officials of the R. F. C. are reported to favor building this large plant west of Western ave., at 190th st., which land is at present within the city limits of Torrance. However, because of necessity of using power furnished from Boulder Dam by the Los Angeles Bureau of Power & Light, it will be necessary for Torrance to secede this site of approximately 100 acres to the City of Los Angeles. Obviously the benefits from such a huge plant located in this area are infinitely greater than the small loss of tax money from the present vacant land, and no opposition is expected from Torrance residents.

Petitions Out Soon

To expedite the move, petitions are now being prepared for circulation, which will permit the Torrance city council to call an election to dis-incorporate the 100-acre site, which is the first move in the legal procedure. Approximately 800 signatures are needed.

(Continued on Page 8-A)

NEW WING AT HOSPITAL IS COMPLETED

With the completion yesterday of the new wing of Torrance Memorial hospital, facilities at that institution on Englewood ave., were enlarged to care for 11 more patients in addition to a 40-crib nursery. Patients from older portions of the hospital are now being moved into the new wing in order to allow for modernization and re-decoration of the other parts of the building.

It is not planned to have any formal public inspection of the new facilities until the modernization of the entire hospital is complete, directors of the Torrance Memorial Hospital Association said today.

Costing \$2,000, the new wing includes one day room, complete with bath and shower; two semi-private rooms with toilet facilities and accommodations for two beds and two four-bed rooms. The addition was designed by Barker and Ott, architects, to conform to the general plan of the hospital and the construction was done under the supervision of Edward G. Neess.

Defense Aids Stand Ready

Air Raid Signal Test Saturday

Civilian defense authorities in Torrance will conduct a TEST call of the air raid alarm system next Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13. Residents are not required to do anything but they can, for their own practice, go to hallways and lie face down after first turning off gas valves in their homes.

Pedestrians are asked to clear the streets and those in stores and shops remain where they are. The TEST calls will be sirened at the central fire station at 2 p. m. (one blast for three minutes) and the all-clear blast of one minute will follow at 2:05 p. m.

The C. C. M. O. area will have the TEST at 2:30 p. m. with the all-clear five minutes later at 2:35 p. m. The WALTERIA TEST will be at 3 p. m., all clear at 3:05 p. m., and Hollywood Riviera's TEST will be at 3:30 p. m., all-clear at 3:35 p. m.

REMEMBER—THOSE ARE MERELY TEST CALLS, STAY CALM.

With every day adding its emergency duties and regulations to industry, business and citizenry, Torrance is keeping abreast of the nation's all-out war effort by strict observance to every order and instruction issued by military and civilian law enforcement agencies. And daily, as the nation settled down into a determined drive to end oppression from dictatorships, Torrance is contributing its full cooperation to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Blackouts, seven-day week, civilian defense, Air Raid Wardens, increased enlistment in the armed forces, 5 o'clock closing, priorities—all these are being met here and there is no hysteria.

"If the British can take it, so can we," has become the watchword of many a family as curtains are drawn and lights are dimmed at nightfall.

Last night's first general blackout of the Southland from Bakersfield to San Diego and eastward to Boulder Dam was the third in succession for Torrance residents—so the city's "B-O" veterans took the darkness without confusion. Police were active in locating infractions after the station was swamped by calls about the street lights remaining on more than 15 minutes after the blackout was announced by radio.

The reason for the delay, as given by District Superintendent Edwin Z. Dixon at Redondo Beach headquarters of the Southern California Edison Co., was that police and sheriff's deputies would not let power company men through the blackout to pull switches.

"We have men all posted and ready to act in case of blackout but they couldn't get through police lines," he said today. "I was held up at Compton and Western for an hour and a half by police when I was enroute to Lomita. We must be given badges or passes to do our work or we cannot function as we should."

Command Says Planes were Overhead

Police here said no power company worker was stopped from going to posts to turn off lights. "We know the power company has a big job to do," we want to help them do it," Sergeant Ernest H. Ashton said this morning. "For that matter, we did not require any motorist to stop. All we asked that they drive with either parking or dimmed lights or none at all."

Last night's blackout, it was emphasized by the Interceptor Command, was not a practice one. This authority stated: "There are planes over and south of Los Angeles that are unidentified." The darkness, starting at 7:35 p. m., lasted until 11:08 p. m.

Sergeant Ernest H. Ashton reported this morning that "there was not even a bungee up fender reported to us in the way of an auto accident in the darkness last night."

Meeting in a council chamber illuminated by only two of the eight available lights, the city council Tuesday night heard Police Chief John Stroh and Fire Chief J. E. McMaster's reports on what is being done here in the emergency.

Adjourned Meetings for Duration

The council did not adopt any "state of emergency" ordinance delegating full powers to those two officials but decided to hold adjourned sessions regularly for the duration. The first of these will be held tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 4:45 p. m.

Fire Chief McMaster, who reported his men were working full time, was authorized to determine where part of the equipment now at central station can be stored in order to divide the facilities. "We don't want all our eggs in one basket in event of trouble," a councilman explained.

Police Chief John Stroh reported his men are working 12-hour shifts with no days off. The council decided to compensate the officers with corresponding time off after the emergency is over.

Air Raid Signals Announced

At the conference held by law enforcement officers of the county with Mayor LaGuardia of New York, national civilian defense chief, in Los Angeles Tuesday morning, Stroh said it had been decided to use sirens for air raid alarm signals.

"The signals will be: one three-minute-long blast to announce a raid and a one-minute blast for the 'all-clear,'" Stroh said. "The emergency disaster call will remain the same as usual: six long blasts. We will use the siren on top of the central fire station, the WALTERIA sub-station and C. C. M. O. siren."

No signal has been adopted as yet calling a blackout but all street and other outside lights are to be put out at 5 o'clock and curtains drawn in homes and places of business that must stay open.

Air Raid Wardens Being Enrolled

Chief Stroh has been given the added duty of enrolling and assigning Air Raid Wardens. He has appointed Jack Hallanger, deputy city clerk, air raid warden in charge. Hallanger is now enlisting volunteers at the city clerk's office. He wants seven or eight people—men and women—to serve as Air Raid Wardens in each district embracing approximately 500 people. They will be asked to give three or four hours a day or night to patrol duties in their area.

Air Raid Wardens will also be on the alert for sounds of aircraft overhead and, in case of attack, will stop all traffic and instruct pedestrians to return to their homes at once. A Legionnaire is expected to be assigned to head each district. Hallanger said every home should be provided at once with a large pall of sand for extinguishing incendiary bombs. Ladders should be made available to give quick access to roofs. Water hoses should be attached but he cautions residents about the use

(Continued on Page 8-A)

ONLY 11 MORE SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS!